



September 10, 2007

**Dear Community Leader:**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 6 office in Dallas, Texas, in partnership with Region 6 Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and Houston Department of Health and Human Services, would like to invite you to be a part of an exciting, ongoing effort that we began in San Antonio in 2006. The success of last year's event has inspired our partners and EPA to continue the initiative with another Hispanic Stakeholders Forum in Houston. The Forum, called "***Beyond Translation***," will be held this year on October 10 – 12 and we need your participation and support.

The purpose of this year's Forum is to continue the momentum started in 2006, bringing together a broad cross-section of Hispanic leaders in the Region, from grassroots organizations to health agencies and academia, and from business and civic groups to local, state and federal agencies. We hope to continue exploring ways in which we can work together to address collaboratively the myriad environmental and human health issues confronting us each day.

Key goals of this year's forum include: sharing/transferring best practices addressing environmental health issues; focusing attention on education and recruitment challenges in science, technology, engineering and math; providing effective mechanisms for the Hispanic community to gain access to contracts, grants and other community resources; exploring how EPA, DHHS, and other agencies may better serve Hispanic communities; and developing a strategy for ongoing involvement in these issues. We want to continue to serve as a catalyst to foster greater involvement of the Hispanic community in our effort to protect human health and the environment *en nuestras comunidades*. Your views on how we can make a difference in the lives of Hispanics are important, so please bring your ideas and energy, and join us in Houston as part of this vital dialogue.

Enclosed you will find the draft Agenda for the Forum, and hotel and registration information. Please feel free to contact Juan Parras, our Registration Coordinator, at (713) 926-8895 or (281) 513-7799 or Ms. Paula Flores-Gregg our Program Chair at (214) 665-8123, if you have any questions or need additional information. Thank you in advance for your assistance and support. *¡Juntos podemos!* Together we can improve our natural environment and ensure healthier communities.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Miguel I. Flores'.

Miguel I. Flores  
Director  
Water Quality Protection Agency

Enclosure

# **Beyond Translation – Houston Forum**

## ***“Cultivating Hispanic Community Involvement”***

Houston, Texas – Houston Hobby Marriott  
October 10-12, 2007

### **Purpose**

- Transfer best community awareness practices addressing environmental health issues.
- Bring attention to the education and recruitment challenge in the science, technology, engineering, and math fields.
- Provide most effective mechanisms to gain access to contracts, grants, and other resources.
- Develop a strategy for ongoing community involvement.

### **Target Audience**

Community leaders from grass-roots, non-profit organizations, health organizations, local and federal government, civic groups, business, media representatives, and academia.

### **Date/Time**

October 10, 2007	8:30 - 4:00 PM	Student Forum (Milby HS & Austin HS)
October 10, 2007	6:00 - 8:00 PM	Welcome Reception
October 11, 2007	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Beyond Translation Forum
October 12, 2007	8:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Beyond Translation Forum

### **Forum Location**

Houston Hobby Marriott, 9100 Gulf Freeway, Houston, TX 77017

### **Registration & Room Reservations**

Contact Juan Parras at (713) 926-8895, (281) 513-7799 (cell), (713) 926-2750 (fax).

### **Deadline for Registration**

**September 26, 2007** - Space is limited - please register early!

### **Exhibit Space Available**

Contact Juan Parras at (713) 926-8895, or (281) 513-7799 (cell), or Debora Bradford at (214) 665-7406.

### **Travel Assistance**

There is some invitational travel funding available for presenters of smaller non-profit and civic organizations. To find out if you qualify, please contact Paula Flores-Gregg, our program chair, at (214) 665-8123, or via e-mail at: [flores.paula@epa.gov](mailto:flores.paula@epa.gov).

### **For More Information Visit Our Website**

<http://www.epa.gov/region6/beyondtranslation>